

Andru Volinsky,
Executive Councilor for District Two
Meeting Report
Executive Council Meeting of May 17, 2017
and
Confirmation Hearing of May 10, 2017

Please feel free to contact me at Andru.Volinsky@nh.gov.

Commissioner Confirmation Hearings

The Governor nominated Charles Arlinghaus of Canterbury to be the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services to replace Commissioner Vicki Quiram who resigned to take a position in California nearer to her family. We held a confirmation hearing at which approximately six witnesses testified on the nominee's behalf and one in opposition.

Mr. Arlinghaus has been the long-time director of the Josiah Bartlett Center in Concord and a regular columnist for the Union Leader. By his writings, Mr. Arlinghaus has shown himself to be a thoughtful and articulate writer. He has supported Right to Work legislation and challenged the justifications for Medicaid expansion. There has been controversy about whether the center he directs has received Koch Brothers funding. The Center and Mr. Arlinghaus have supported ALEC propagated legislation. Mr. Arlinghaus was the Governor's transition team budget director. He has never managed an organization with more than a handful of employees. Mr. Arlinghaus is the only employee of the Bartlett Center.

Mr. Arlinghaus testified that he does not have a strong interest in privatizing government functions or in selling off government properties out of the ordinary course. He did not believe his lack of management experience was an impediment to success even though Administrative Services is a large organization with a wide array of responsibilities. He also did not believe that the Bartlett Center has an over-sized influence on NH government even though the Governor's chief of staff, the Attorney General, the Governor's brother and father, and Mr. Arlinghaus are all on its board of directors.

Council Agenda Items of Note

The Council breakfast preceding the May 17th meeting was hosted by Councilor Russell Prescott at the NH Department of Justice where we received a presentation about ongoing drug enforcement projects, the dangers of fentanyl and carfentanyl, and the overall operations of the Department of Justice which serves as the state's law firm.

The Council approved a special election for Grafton District 9 which serves Ashland. The filing period is May 22-26. If there is need for a primary, it will be held on July 18th with the general election on September 5th. If a primary is not necessary, the general election will be July 18th.

The Executive Council had four contracts on its agenda from the Department of Education. With the permission of the Governor, I asked the Commissioner of

Education about a news report concerning the Commissioner's plans to attend a closed, partisan Republican town meeting. Mr. Edelblut informed me that he had not yet decided to attend the Republican town meeting and I strongly encouraged him to avoid partisan politics as the education commissioner. In response, the Governor defended the right of the Education Commissioner to participate in partisan politics, but I persisted. Subsequent to our meeting, the media reported that Mr. Edelblut would not attend the partisan event "due to scheduling conflicts."

The Council approved the receipt of \$1.13 million in additional federal funding for the state's supplemental nutrition ("SNAP") program that was awarded to the state in recognition of efficient and accurate processing of claims for supplemental assistance.

The Department of Health and Human Services received approval by the Council for a contract to retain a consultant to devise a plan of implementation for managed care organizations to oversee long-term care and elderly independence services. The SB 553 stakeholders community assessing the viability of managed care was not advised of this specific contract coming before the Council. I voted for the contract after receiving the commitment of the Commissioner to provide all stakeholders with electronic copies of contracts related to the implementation of managed care at the same time the contracts are submitted to the Executive Council. I also asked the Commissioner to arrange for a full briefing for the Executive Council on the status of implementing managed care with respect to nursing home and home care, both of which are very minimally funded by the state and generally efficiently run.

The Council approved a tuition assistance program at Granite State College for child care teachers and directors in an amount not to exceed \$600,000. The grant is federally funded. Those with interest in applying should contact the Division of Children, Youth, and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Executive Council approved the nomination of Christine Tappan of Northwood to fill the role of Senior Division Director leading DCYF. The Legislature is considering a plan that would re-classify the position to that of Associate Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). At the insistence of Councilor Pappas and me, the Governor agreed that Ms. Tappan will not be promoted to Associate Commissioner without the further approval of Governor and Council.

The nomination of David Patch to be re-appointed as Fish and Game Commissioner was again tabled at the request of Councilors Prescott and Wheeler who have sought a legal opinion from the Attorney General concerning the propriety of Commissioner Patch having requested an amendment to the so called "concealed carry" law to conform with the Fish and Game Commission's understanding of the prohibition against carrying loaded firearms in a motor vehicle while hunting.

Nominations and Confirmations

The following nominees were confirmed:

Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services

Charles Arlinghaus, Canterbury vote: (4-1, Volinsky voting no);

Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services

Joseph B. Bouchard, Concord

Athletic Trainers Governing Board

Kirsty Ridings, Wolfeboro

Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Citizens Committee

Gail Hanson, Colebrook

Senior Division Director, Division of Child & Family Services

Christine Tappan, Northwood

Director of the Division of Emergency Services, Communications, and Management for the Department of Safety

Mark E. Doyle, Merrimack

Board of Veterinary Medicine

Judith D. Leclerc, Nashua

Judicial Council

Brian J.X. Murphy, Rye

Advisory Committee on Marine Fisheries

Erik S. Anderson, Portsmouth

Christian Callahan, Portsmouth

Ellen D. Goethel, Hampton

Geno J. Marconi, Stratham

Oil Fund Disbursement Board

Shane McKinney, Albany

Rivers Management Advisory Committee

Edna Feighner, Concord

State Committee on Aging

Kristi St. Laurent, Windham

George M. Cleveland of North Conway was rejected for a seat on the Mt. Washington Commission by a 3-2 vote with Councilors Kenney, Wheeler, and Prescott voting against confirmation.

The following nominations were made:

NOMINATIONS

Board of Acupuncture Licensing

Amy R. Goldstein, Concord

Financial Data Manager of the Department of Administrative Services

Alexander Stone, Amherst

Agricultural Lands Preservation Committee

Jane A. Presby, Concord

Board of Dental Examiners

Tara Levesque-Vogel, Nashua

Robert C. Kuepper, Concord

Lisa Scott, Manchester

Interstate Bridge Authority

Michael J. Griffin, Portsmouth

Invasive Species Committee

Leonard A. Lord, Epping

Jeffrey M. Taylor, Richmond

Justice of the New Hampshire Circuit Court

Melissa Countway Guldbrandesen, Alton
Lakes Management Advisory Committee

Richard D. Smith, Hancock

Board of Land Surveyors

Ginny Chrisenton, Lyndeborough

Board of Mental Health Practice

Janet Stevens, Rye

New Hampshire School Building Authority

Donald P. Bliss, Hampton

Public Water Access Advisory Board

Ronald Sowa, Manchester

Richard D. Smith, Hancock

Director of the Division of Audits for the Department of Revenue Administration

Frederick J. Coolbroth, Jr., Concord

State Veterans Council

Brendan Finn, Manchester

Spotlight

A. \$15 an Hour

At my request, the state's agencies began reporting the lowest rates of compensation paid by state vendors to their employees on state projects. The following contracts were approved with the pay scale noted:

Department of Revenue Administration—Fairfax Imaging of Tampa, Florida: \$13/hr with benefits;

Department of Transportation—Delucca Fence Co. of Methuen, MA: \$32.50/hr with benefits.

Next Meeting

Our next regularly scheduled Executive Council meeting will occur at the State House on June 7, 2017, beginning at 10. a.m. The agenda for the meeting will be posted by the Secretary of State on the Executive Council web page late on the preceding Friday afternoon. <http://sos.nh.gov/GC2.aspx>

Councilor Pappas is responsible for organizing the Executive Council's informal breakfast which may be attended by the public. It will begin at 8 a.m. at the Department of Employment Services on Fruit Street in Concord.

Region 1-Monadnock

#60 Authorized to amend a **sole source** cooperative project agreement with Keene State College, Keene, NH (originally approved by G&C on 2-10-16, item #50), to continue to develop and implement a transition resource portal for accessing all training materials and resources developed under the State Personnel Development Grant as well as to assist with the development of training to be provided to educators, by increasing the price by \$121,000 from \$83,000 to \$204,000, and by extending the

completion date from June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2018. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

Region 2- Merrimack

[#11](#) Authorized to exercise a **sole source** contract renewal with the City of Franklin, NH (originally approved by G&C on 5-27-15, item #12), to continue to provide planning, training, and equipment for the emergency Northern New England Metropolitan Medical Response System strike teams in NH to enhance the overall medical surge capability in response to a large-scale health event, by increasing the price by \$70,000 from \$85,000 to an amount not to exceed \$155,000. Effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. **100% Other Funds (NH Department of Safety). Unanimous Vote**

[#12](#) Authorized the Bureau of Developmental Services to amend an existing **sole source** contract with the University of NH, Institute on Disability, Durham, NH (originally approved by G&C on 6-4-14, item #56), to continue providing technical assistance and education that promote best practices in community services for people with developmental disabilities as well as training to Department staff, Area Agencies, direct service providers, individuals and families, by increasing the price by \$190,228 from \$570,687 to an amount not to exceed \$760,915, and by changing the completion date from June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2018. **100% General Funds. Unanimous Vote**

[#61](#) Authorized to amend a **sole source** contract with NH Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities Inc., d/b/a Parent Information Center of Concord, NH (originally approved by G&C on 3-9-16, item #99), to continue to develop and provide training and technical assistance to local education agencies in their region under the State Personnel Development Grant and provide sustainability activities related to Next Steps NH, by increasing the price by \$60,884.50 from \$66,999.96 to \$127,884.46, and by extending the completion date from June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2018. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

2017. **100% Capital – Highway Funds. Unanimous Vote**

[#79](#) Authorized to enter into a **retroactive sole source** contract with Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities, Londonderry, NH, to install and operate temporary heating facilities for several state owned buildings located in Concord, NH, for a total not to exceed \$2,725,000. The cost for the contract will be paid in 15 monthly installments with \$2,180,000 being paid in FY 2018 and the balance \$545,000 being paid in FY 2019. Effective March 1, 2017 through November 1, 2018 with the option to extend for one additional year ending November 1, 2019. **Unanimous Vote**

Region 3-Strafford

[#55](#) Authorized to award an Asset Management grant to the City of Rochester, NH, in the amount of \$20,000 to improve public water system management. Effective upon G&C approval through May 31, 2018. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**